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RIDLEY
SEGOVIA
DUCE
LOKUS

I AM BATMAN

AGES 13+
DCCOMICS.COM

ADAM STRANGE IS A MAN OF TWO WORLDS. IS HE A HERO ON EITHER?



STRANGE ADVENTURES



WRITTEN BY
TOM KING

ART BY
**MITCH GERADS AND
EVAN "DOC" SHANER**

A HARDCOVER GRAPHIC NOVEL COLLECTION
OF THE EISNER AWARD-NOMINATED SERIES



DECEMBER

**GOTHAM CITY.
THE GARMENT
DISTRICT.**

SEER,
ARE YOU
HERE?

I'M
HERE.

YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO
WANTED TO
MEET.
QUIT
HIDING. **SHOW
YOURSELF.**

SAYS
THE GUY
WEARING
SOMEONE
ELSE'S
MASK.

I'M
OUT HERE
TRYING TO
INSPIRE. ALL
YOU'RE DOING
IS JACKING
PEOPLE ON
FEAR.

THE ONLY
THING PEOPLE
HAVE TO BE
AFRAID OF...



...IS THE TRUTH.

AND THE TRUTH IS, YOU'RE NOT BATMAN.

I'M BATMAN ENOUGH TO PUT A BEATDOWN ON THE DUDE YOU SENT AFTER ME.



EZEKIEL IS A TRUE BELIEVER.

HE'S A PUNK WHO FEEDS OFF YOUR CONSPIRACY THEORIES, SAME AS THE REST OF YOUR FOLLOWERS.

CONSPIRACIES ARE FAKE RIGHT UP UNTIL THEY AREN'T.



THE TUSKEGEE EXPERIMENTS. MK-ULTRA. COINTELPRO. ALL REAL. THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE POWER. WE HAVE TO FIGHT IT.

YOU'RE NOT FIGHTING POWER. YOU'RE TURNING REGULAR PEOPLE INTO A MOB.

I'M TEACHING THEM TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.











THE FOX FAMILY ESTATE.

LUCIUS...

...I'D JUST SHOT A MAN...I'D JUST KILLED SOMEONE, AND YOU'RE UPSET I DIDN'T KILL SOMEONE ELSE?

THE MAN YOU SHOT WAS A DOMESTIC TERRORIST.

AND BATMAN... THAT OTHER BATMAN, HE'S NO BETTER.

HE SAVED PEOPLE. I WAS THERE WHEN HE DID IT.

HE IS PART OF A CYCLE OF VIOLENCE. THE MASKS, THE ONES WHO ARE EVIL, THE ONES WHO THINK THEY'RE HEROES... THEY'RE LIKE A CULT.

I KNEW THAT FROM THE BEGINNING.

"FROM THE BEGINNING"... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

OUR DAUGHTER IS LYING IN A HOSPITAL BECAUSE OF A MASK.

I WOULD HAVE BELIEVED YOU OF ALL PEOPLE WOULD HAVE THE STRENGTH OF YOUR CONVICTIONS.

I DID. I THOUGHT I DID, BUT--

I GAVE HIM A SECOND CHANCE, AND ALL HE'S BEEN DOING IS MISSING WORK DURING THE DAY, AND DOING GOD KNOWS WHAT AT NIGHT.

I FEEL LIKE... I FEEL LIKE I AM THE ONLY ONE IN OUR FAMILY WHO UNDERSTANDS THE RESPONSIBILITY WE HAVE TO THE CITY.

BUT YOU COULDN'T FOLLOW THROUGH. SAME AS JACE.

THIS FAMILY...WE HAVE TO BE A SYMBOL.

WE-- HAVE--TO-- REPRESENT!



LUCIUS...
YOU'RE NOT
WELL. EVER
SINCE PUNCHLINE
TORTURED
YOU--

YOU THINK I'M
"DAMAGED?" IS
THAT WHAT YOU
THINK? YOU THINK
I NEED HELP?

*BACK IN THE DAYS OF
THE JOKER WAR --BEN.



I THINK WE ALL HAVE ISSUES
WE'RE DEALING WITH. WE HAVE
BEEN LIVING IN FEAR, AND WE
ARE DAMAGED.

I KNOW
I AM.



FOR
THE SAKE OF
OUR FAMILY, WE
NEED TO GET
OURSELVES
TOGETHER.

HOW DO
YOU THINK THAT'S
GOING TO PLAY ON
SOCIAL MEDIA:
"THE FOX FAMILY
IS CRAZY."

PEOPLE
LIKE US
DON'T GO
AROUND
ASKING
FOR HELP.

NO. WE
DON'T.









SETTLE
DOWN,
DETECTIVE.

I'M UP FOR
A DISCIPLINARY
HEARING, AND YOU'RE
TELLING ME TO
SETTLE DOWN?

ORDERS WERE TO
APPREHEND ALL MASKS ON
SIGHT. YOU COULD HAVE
BROUGHT ONE IN, BUT YOU
LET HIM WALK.

I HAD WOUNDED OFFICERS TO
TAKE CARE OF. AND THOSE
ANTI-MASK LAWS ARE DONE.
SO IS THE MAGISTRATE.

WE WERE
UNDER ORDERS
AT THE TIME.
YOU DISOBEYED
THEM.

SO NOW I HAVE TO
PAY THE PRICE FOR NOT
PULLING MY TRIGGER?



IT'S NOT
ABOUT WHAT
YOU DID OR
DIDN'T DO.
IT'S C.Y.A.
TIME.

NAKANO'S
SHUFFLING THE DECK,
SO HE CAN CHANGE
THE NARRATIVE ON THE
WHOLE MAGISTRATE
MESS.

SITUATIONS
LIKE YOURS
THAT CONFUSE
THE NARRATIVE...
THEY NEED TO
GO AWAY.



AND YOU'RE
OKAY WITH
THAT?

NO. BUT NAKANO NEEDING TO
COVER HIS TAIL, AND NEEDING TO
LEAN ON A TRADITIONAL POLICE
DEPARTMENT, GIVES ME THE
UPPER HAND.

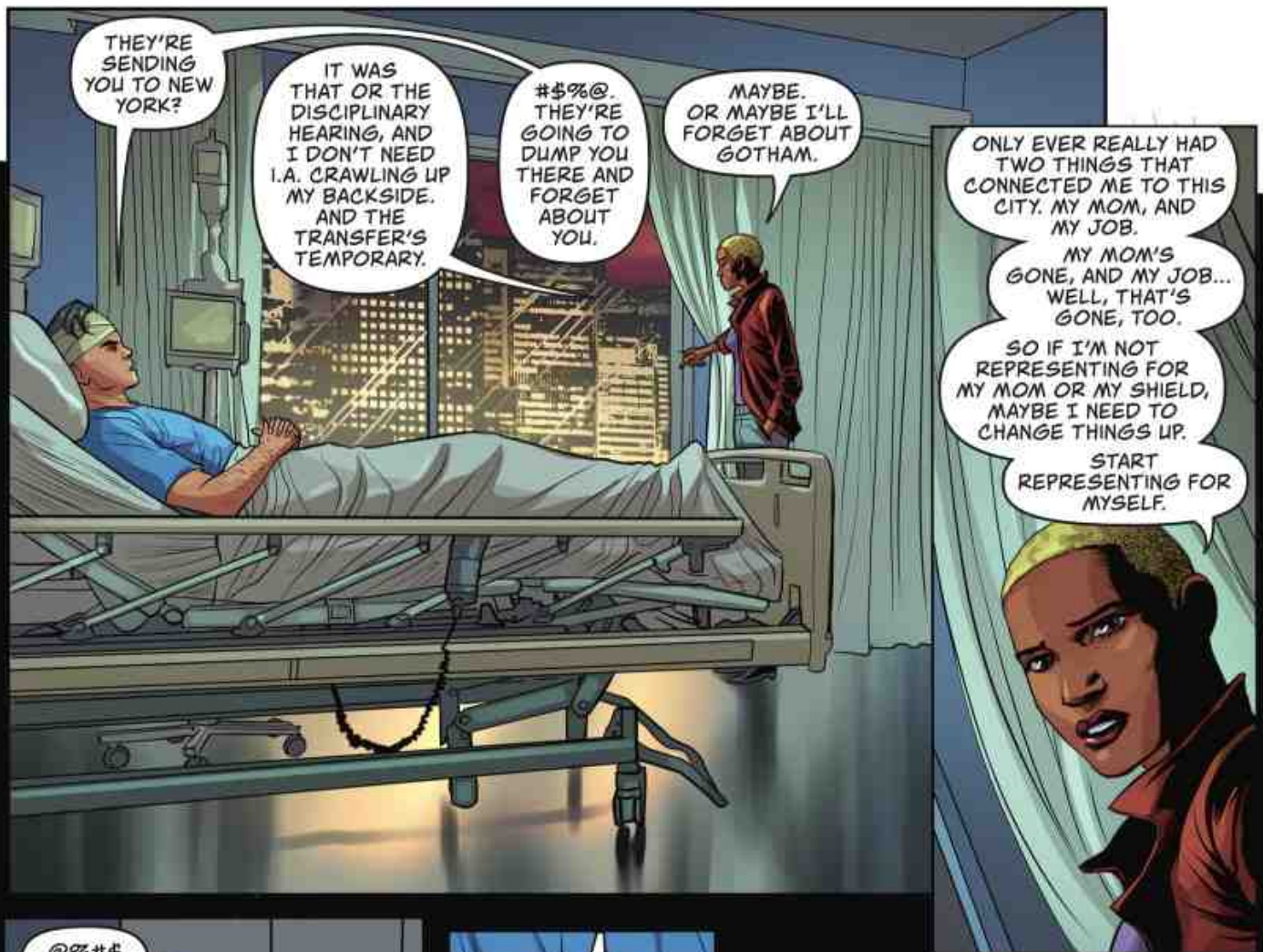
I INTEND
TO USE
IT.

EVEN IF THAT
MEANS I GET
SCREWED?

CHUBB, THIS ISN'T
AS BAD AS YOU THINK.
I'VE ALREADY TALKED
TO SOMEBODY,
AND I'VE GOT
YOU A TEMPORARY
TRANSFER TO
ANOTHER PD.

A PD
WHERE?

"NEW
YORK?
ARE YOU
@%#\$
ME?!"



THEY'RE
SENDING
YOU TO NEW
YORK?

IT WAS
THAT OR THE
DISCIPLINARY
HEARING, AND
I DON'T NEED
I.A. CRAWLING UP
MY BACKSIDE.
AND THE
TRANSFER'S
TEMPORARY.

#\$%&@.
THEY'RE
GOING TO
DUMP YOU
THERE AND
FORGET
ABOUT
YOU.

MAYBE.
OR MAYBE I'LL
FORGET ABOUT
GOTHAM.

ONLY EVER REALLY HAD
TWO THINGS THAT
CONNECTED ME TO THIS
CITY. MY MOM, AND
MY JOB.

MY MOM'S
GONE, AND MY JOB...
WELL, THAT'S
GONE, TOO.

SO IF I'M NOT
REPRESENTING FOR
MY MOM OR MY SHIELD,
MAYBE I NEED TO
CHANGE THINGS UP.

START
REPRESENTING FOR
MYSELF.



@%#\$
MASKS...

HEY, YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO'S
ALWAYS HAD
THEIR BACKS.

I'M STARTING
TO RETHINK THAT
POSITION.

DON'T GET
BITTER. IT'S
NEVER DONE
ME MUCH
GOOD.



EXCEPT
MAKE YOU A HELL
OF A PARTNER.
GOTHAM'S NOT
GOING TO BE
THE SAME
WITHOUT YOU,
CHUBB.



YEAH,
WELL...

...MAYBE
THAT'S A
GOOD
THING.



VOL...

I'M HERE.
WHAT'S UP?

NEED
YOU TO GET
A MESSAGE TO
COMMISSIONER
MONTOKA.
ANONYMOUS, BUT
URGENT.

SHE NEEDS TO
PUT A PROTECTIVE
DETAIL ON
SIMON SAINT. THE
PRISON SYSTEM IS
COMPROMISED.
HE'S GOING TO
END UP LIKE
ARKADINE.

A NEWS ALERT
WENT OUT TEN MINUTES
AGO. SAINT MADE BAIL.
HE WAS RELEASED
ON AN R.O.R.

YOU THINK
HE'S GOING
TO RUN?

IF HE WAS SMART
HE WOULD. BUT HE'S
NOT THE GENIUS HE
THINKS HE IS.

PUT
A TRACE
ON SAINT.
I NEED TO
FIND HIM.

NOW!

VRRRR

"HELLO,
SIMON."



MY...
TEN MILLION
DOLLARS TO BAIL
YOU OUT. TALK
ABOUT SOMETHING
COSTING MORE
THAN IT'S
WORTH.



AND I KNOW YOU
DIDN'T SPEND THE
MONEY BECAUSE IT
WAS BURNING A HOLE
IN YOUR POCKET,
VICTOR.

REALLY,
SIMON?
IF I WANTED
YOU DEAD I
COULD'VE HAD
YOU KILLED IN
PRISON.

THAT
WOULD HAVE
LOOKED TOO MUCH
LIKE ARKADINE'S
MURDER.

YOU'RE
NOT THAT
SLOPPY.



CERTAINLY NOT
SLOPPY ENOUGH
TO LEAVE ME
ALIVE.

SIMON,
COME
ON...

DON'T
PATRONIZE ME,
VICTOR. I'VE NEVER
BEEN ANYTHING
TO YOU BUT A
FUNCTIONARY.

WELL, YOU HAVE
ME THERE. BUT EVEN
A FUNCTIONARY CAN
BE USEFUL.

AND
I'VE GOT
SOMETHING
I NEED YOU TO
DO FOR ME.

BRING ME
THIS NEW BATMAN.



...HOW...?

THAT'S THE
BEST PART,
SIMON. YOU
DON'T REALLY
HAVE TO DO
ANYTHING.





MY TAP
ON SAINT'S PHONE
PUTS HIM HERE. LESS
THAN ONE HUNDRED
METERS FROM YOUR
POSITION.

I DON'T SEE
ANYTHING.

BE CAREFUL.
SAINT'S
DESPERATE.

MAYBE THE
MAGISTRATE
PROGRAM IS
FINISHED, BUT I'M
SURE HE'D LOVE
TO DRAG A MASK
BACK TO HELL
WITH HIM.



ARKADINE, SAINT...THEY'RE
THE REASONS I *BECAME*
BATMAN: TO GO AFTER THE
POWERFUL WHO THINK
THEY'RE UNTOUCHABLE.

HOWEVER YOU
STARTED, YOUR
BATMAN IS
EVOLVING.



...GOD...

WHAT
IS IT?



AFTER
THE...THE STATE
OF FEAR WE'VE ALL
BEEN LIVING UNDER,
YOUR BATMAN'S
COME TO SYMBOLIZE
HOPE.

SAINT. DEAD.
HE LOOKS LIKE
HE GOT HIT BY A
TRUCK. A COUPLE
OF TRUCKS.



HIS BLOOD IS STILL
POOLING. THIS JUST
HAPPENED.

I'M DOING
A CONSTANT
SWEEP OF THE
AREA. I'M NOT
PICKING UP
ANYONE ELSE
THERE.

SOMETHING
KILLED SAINT.
SOMETHING
MASSIVE. KEEP
SWEEPING. IT'S
TOO BIG TO
HIDE.



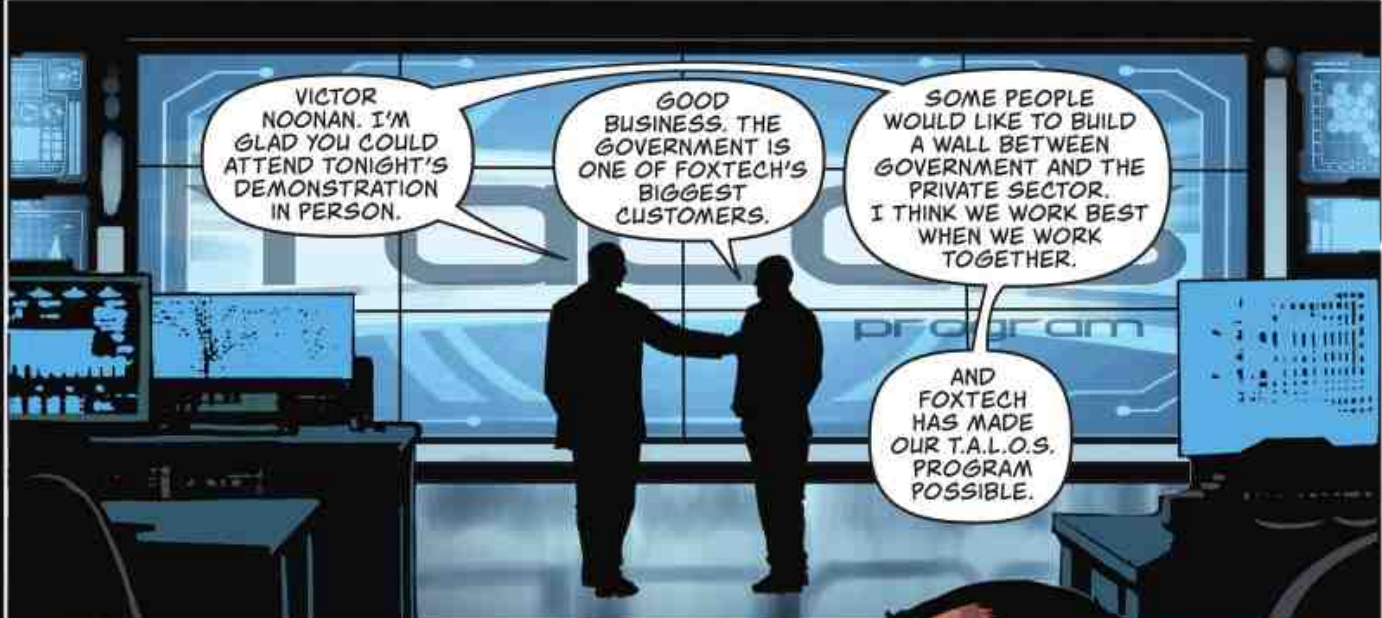
JAZZT...
ZZZTHE
SIGZZZNAL...

VOL,
YOU'RE
BREAKING
UP.

VOL, YOU
THERE?



"I DEEPLY
APPRECIATE
THIS, MR. FOX."



VICTOR NOONAN. I'M GLAD YOU COULD ATTEND TONIGHT'S DEMONSTRATION IN PERSON.

GOOD BUSINESS. THE GOVERNMENT IS ONE OF FOXTECH'S BIGGEST CUSTOMERS.

SOME PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO BUILD A WALL BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. I THINK WE WORK BEST WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER.

AND FOXTECH HAS MADE OUR T.A.L.O.S. PROGRAM POSSIBLE.



I WOULD THINK, AFTER THE MAGISTRATE DISASTER, YOU'D ABANDON T.A.L.O.S.



IT'S THE EXACT OPPOSITE. SIMON SAINT, THE MAGISTRATE--THEY JUST DEMONSTRATED THE LIMITS OF COMMAND AND CONTROL AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL.

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL THE CONSTITUTION HAS MECHANISMS THAT WILL ALLOW FOR FEDERAL OVERSIGHT OF LOCAL CIVIL ACTIONS.



YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MARTIAL LAW. RULE BY THE MILITARY.



I'M TALKING ABOUT HOMELAND SECURITY: DOING WHAT WE HAVE TO TO RESTORE ORDER TO THE COUNTRY.



PEOPLE ARE NOT GOING TO ACCEPT THAT.

LOOK AT WHAT'S GOING ON IN SOCIETY. DEMONSTRATIONS, VIOLENT RIOTS FROM THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT HAVE BECOME THE NORM.

POLICE ARE UNDERSTAFFED, OVERWHELMED, AND TOO MANY TIMES THEY JUST MAKE THE WRONG CALL AND ADD TO THE CHAOS.



AND WHO DO WE DEPEND ON AS SAVIORS? MASKS?

YOU KNOW AS WELL AS ANYONE THEY CANNOT BE TRUSTED. ONLY HUNTED, AND IF NECESSARY, KILLED.

THAT IS YOUR POSITION, ISN'T IT, MR. FOX?



MY POSITION...
I WANT WHAT'S
BEST FOR
GOTHAM.

WHAT'S BEST
FOR GOTHAM...
WHAT'S BEST FOR
AMERICA, IS A
NEW KIND OF LAW
ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER.



T.A.L.O.S.: TACTICAL ASSAULT LIGHT
OPERATOR SUIT. A HYBRID OF BATTLE
ARMOR AND MACHINE LEARNING THAT
MAKES THE PEACEKEEPER ARMOR
LOOK LIKE A BATHROBE.

MORE THAN
ENOUGH TO
PROTECT OUR
COUNTRY FROM
THE RISE OF
DOMESTIC
TERRORISTS.



WE COULDN'T HAVE REACHED
PHASE THREE DEVELOPMENT
WITHOUT FOXTECH'S
OPERATING SOFTWARE.

PHASE THREE?
THAT'S REAL-WORLD
TESTING.

YOU ARE STILL
COMMITTED TO
REAL-WORLD
APPLICATIONS,
AREN'T YOU?



I'M...I'M NOT...
MY WIFE RECENTLY
HAD AN...AN
INCIDENT. IT'S
MADE HER RETHINK
HOW WE
SHOULD--

I
UNDERSTAND.
YOUR WIFE, LIKE
SO MANY, ISN'T
SURE WHAT TO
THINK.



WHEN THE FACTS ARE
COMPLICATED, PEOPLE
RESPOND BETTER TO
SYMBOLS.

SO IMAGINE
HOW THEY'LL
RESPOND...

DC COMICS
PROUDLY PRESENTS

I AM BATMAN

JOHN RIDLEY WRITER
STEPHEN SEGOVIA &
CHRISTIAN DUCE ARTISTS
REX LOKUS COLORIST
ALW'S TROY PETERJ LETTERER

...WHEN
WE ACTUALLY
PRESENT THEM
WITH BATMAN'S
CORPSE.

GERARDO ZAFFINO & RAIN BEREDO COVER
RAFAEL SARMENTO AND MAX DUNBAR &
SEBASTIAN CHENG VARIANT COVERS

DAVE WIELGOSZ ASSOCIATE EDITOR
GEN ABERNATHY EDITOR

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE
WITH BILL FINGER

NEXT: **I FOUGHT THE LAW!**

**The Bat is away...
It's time for the criminals locked
in Arkham Tower to play!**

BATMAN DETECTIVE COMICS

SHADOWS OF THE BAT

A 12-part weekly event starting in
January's Detective Comics #1047



Written by **MARIKO TAMAKI**

Art by **IVAN REIS · DANNY MIKI**
MAX RAYNOR · AMANCAY NAHUEL PAN

Covers by **IRVIN RODRIGUEZ**

Plus the epic tale "HOUSE OF GOTHAM"
by **MATTHEW ROSENBERG & FERNANDO BLANCO**





DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

NIGHTWING

VOL. 1: LEAPING INTO THE LIGHT

INTERVIEW WITH TOM TAYLOR

Dick Grayson is back in blue! *Nightwing Vol. 1: Leaping into the Light* collects the first arc in writer Tom Taylor and artist Bruno Redondo's character-redefining run.

What makes this book a good jumping-on point?

We wanted this to be the perfect jumping-on point for any reader. This story is taking everything I love about Nightwing, and amping it up to the next level. It's showing the world why Dick Grayson is an A-lister. When the offer came to write this book, I was jumping. The appeal of Nightwing is that he's a positive character. I like characters who can inspire and do good because it's the right thing to do.

You've worked with Bruno Redondo on multiple series. What makes *Nightwing* different?

I've been working with Bruno for 11 years. He's my brother in comics. We speak the same storytelling language, and what you're seeing is Bruno nailing this character. He wants this run to stand the test of time. Everything is just beautiful, stunning, effective, and emotive. This is a book that makes me very happy every time I see a page come in.

Why is new villain Heartless such a great adversary for Dick?

We wanted someone who was the absolute antithesis of Nightwing. If Dick is the heart of the DC Universe, he needed an adversary with no heart. This character has no empathy and what he's going to do is scary. He's enhanced, which means he's very strong but also very cruel. Nightwing needs a villain who can challenge him like this.

Nightwing #87 is a very unique issue—how did you and Bruno put this together?

Issue #87 is a grand experiment in comic book storytelling. The whole issue is one continuous panel. On page one, Nightwing walks into a scene and we follow him the entire way through. There are no panel breaks. This is something we haven't seen before in comics and was incredibly difficult to choreograph. However, it was something Bruno and I have wanted to do for over a year now. Watching Bruno add to it every few days and seeing it take shape was absolutely mind-blowing. It will be exciting to open the book, cut it up, and lay out the one panel. Maybe buy two copies.

**DON'T MISS
NIGHTWING VOL. 1: LEAPING INTO THE LIGHT
ON SALE IN DECEMBER!**

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